

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A system for ordering items comprising:

a server for controlling data communication with a plurality of terminals via a network,

a database accessible by the server comprising:

a merchandise master which stores information on all items offered from a plurality of dealers to a plurality of customers according to item numbers unique to each item, and

a merchandise assortment related master which stores a list of traded items and the item numbers among the items stored in the merchandise master agreed upon between the customer and the dealer as merchandise assortment related information according to each purchasing unit of the customer and each dealer who offers the item to the customer; and

a terminal for submitting to the server an ordering request for ordering at least one item from a user who belongs to a purchasing unit,

wherein the server comprises an item specific order controller for specifying, for each item in the ordering request, a dealer who offers the item, based on the merchandise assortment related information of the purchasing unit to which the user belongs,

wherein the merchandise assortment related master stores merchandise assortment related information groups for each of the dealers in a state in which item numbers of items purchased by the customer are not duplicated by a plurality of dealers,

wherein the item specific order controller comprises:

a function for determining a purchasing unit of a user who accessed from the terminal and specifying the merchandise assortment related information group for the purchasing unit, based on the determined purchasing unit,

a function for displaying an electronic catalog comprising a list of all items stored in the specified merchandise related information group on the terminal,

a function for, upon the user selecting an item, specifying the unique merchandise related information of the selected item number, among the merchandise related information group, and

a function for specifying a dealer of the item number based on the specified merchandise assortment related information,

wherein said merchandise assortment related master relates and stores merchandise unit identification that indicates merchandise assortment proposed by a dealer whose management unit is indicated by a dealer management identification to a purchasing unit of a customer and selected by the customer as indicated by a customer management unit identification,

wherein the customer management identification, the dealer management identification, and a deliverer management identification indicating a deliverer for providing or delivering item number, price, goods or services, and supplier management identification indicating a supplier who provides goods or services for a user, and

wherein the server further comprises a deliverer specific controller for retrieving and specifying a deliverer who delivers goods or services in the merchandise assortment related master based upon a purchasing unit identification of the user that indicates the purchasing unit as a key, and a supplier providing the goods or services for the customer when receiving an ordering request from the terminal used by the user who belongs to the purchasing unit, and

wherein the item specific controller specifies a unique dealer who offers each item in an ordering request, from among plural dealers who contract with a user belonging to a customer management unit identified with a customer management unit ID to offer an item, by referring a MD unit ID specified and a MD related master based upon an item number received.

Claim 4. (Canceled).

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the item specific ordering controller further comprises:

a function for adding an item selected by the user to an ordering request group when an approval standard of the selected item and an approval standard of a previously selected item are the same; and

a function for rejecting addition of the selected item to the ordering request group when the approval standard of the selected item and the approval standard of the previously

selected item are different, and for prompting group-ordering with different dealers by the same approval standard without accepting addition of items having different approval standards.

Claim 6. (Canceled).

Claim 7. (Currently amended) An application service provider (ASP) system for issuing and receiving orders which provides an order issuing function to a terminal of a user who belongs to a purchasing unit of a customer, and provides an order receiving function to a terminal of a dealer who offers an item identified by an item number to the customer, the ASP system comprising:

- a server for controlling data communication with the terminals via a network;

- a database accessible by the server comprising:

- a merchandise master which stores information on all items offered from a plurality of dealers to a plurality of customers according to item numbers unique to each item, and

- a merchandise assortment related master which stores a list of traded items and the item numbers among the items stored in the merchandise master agreed upon between the customer and the dealer as merchandise assortment related information according to each purchasing unit of the customer and each dealer who offers the item to the customer,

- wherein the server comprises an item specific order controller for specifying, for each item in the ordering request, a dealer who offers the item, based on the merchandise assortment related information of the purchasing unit to which the user belongs,

- wherein the merchandise assortment related master stores merchandise assortment related information groups for each of the dealers in a state in which item numbers of items purchased by the customer are not duplicated by a plurality of dealers, and

- wherein the item specific order controller comprises:

- a function for determining a purchasing unit of a user who accessed from the terminal and specifying the merchandise assortment related information group for the purchasing unit, based on the determined purchasing unit,

a function for displaying an electronic catalog comprising a list of all items stored in the specified merchandise related information group on the terminal,

a function for, upon the user selecting an item, specifying the unique merchandise related information of the selected item number, among the merchandise related information group, and

a function for specifying a dealer of the item number based on the specified merchandise assortment related information,

wherein said merchandise assortment related master relates and stores merchandise unit identification that indicates merchandise assortment proposed by a dealer whose management unit is indicated by a dealer management identification to a purchasing unit of a customer and selected by the customer as indicated by a customer management unit identification,

wherein the customer management identification, the dealer management identification, and a deliverer management identification indicating a deliverer for providing or delivering item number, price, goods or services, and supplier management identification indicating a supplier who provides goods or services for a user, and

wherein the server further comprises a deliverer specific controller for retrieving and specifying a deliverer who delivers goods or services in the merchandise assortment related master based upon a purchasing unit identification of the user that indicates the purchasing unit as a key, and a supplier providing the goods or services for the customer when receiving an ordering request from the terminal used by the user who belongs to the purchasing unit, and

wherein the item specific controller specifies a unique dealer who offers each item in an ordering request, from among plural dealers who contract with a user belonging to a customer management unit identified with a customer management unit ID to offer an item, by referring a MD unit ID specified and a MD related master based upon an item number received.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A computer program product having a record medium for controlling issuing and receiving orders by using a server of an ordering system, wherein the system comprises a database which stores a merchandise master for storing item related information, and the server controls data communication with terminals via a network and

performs data extraction from and storing to the database upon request, the program causing the server to:

store information on all items offered from a plurality of dealers to a plurality of customers according to item numbers unique to each item as the merchandise master;

store a list of traded items and the item numbers among the items stored in the merchandise master agreed upon between a customer and a dealer as merchandise assortment related information according to each purchasing unit of the customer and each dealer who offers the item to the customer as a merchandise assortment related master in the database, wherein the merchandise assortment related master stores merchandise assortment related information groups for each of the dealers in a state in which item numbers of items purchased by the customer are not duplicated by a plurality of dealers;

determine a purchasing unit of a user using a terminal; and

control, for an item specific order, of specifying, for each item in an ordering request received from the user, a dealer who offers the item, based on the merchandise assortment related information of the purchasing unit to which the user belongs,

wherein the control comprises:

specify the merchandise assortment related information group for the purchasing unit, based on the determined purchasing unit;

display an electronic catalog comprising a list of all items stored in the specified merchandise related information group on the terminal;

upon selection of an item by the user, specify the unique merchandise related information of the selected item number, among the merchandise related information group, and

specify a dealer of the item number based on the specified merchandise assortment related information,

wherein said merchandise assortment related master relates and stores merchandise unit identification that indicates merchandise assortment proposed by a dealer whose management unit is indicated by a dealer management identification to a purchasing unit of a customer and selected by the customer as indicated by a customer management identification,

wherein the customer management identification, the dealer management identification, and a deliverer management identification indicate a deliverer for providing or delivering item number, price, goods or services, and supplier management identification

indicating a supplier who provides goods or services for a user, and

wherein the server further retrieves and specifies a deliverer who delivers goods or services in the merchandise assortment related master based upon a purchasing unit identification of the user that indicates the purchasing unit as a key, and a supplier providing the goods or services for the customer when receiving an ordering request from the terminal used by the user who belongs to the purchasing unit, and

wherein the program causes the server to specify a unique dealer who offers each item in an ordering request, from among plural dealers who contract with a user belonging to a customer management unit identified with a customer management unit ID to offer an item, by referring a MD unit ID specified and a MD related master based upon an item number received.

9 – 30 (Canceled).